De Kalb County Historical Society

50th Anniversary

Timeline of Events
1965 – 2015

De Kalb County Historical Society
201 East Main Street
Butler, Indiana

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Compiled by:
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seconded the motion. Motion passed

Mr. Ankney moved that the charter membership dues be established at one dollar and that charter membership be held open for six months. Seconded by Harvey Hull. Motioned passed.

John Martin Smith, Pres.
Robert Lehr Wilder, Sec.

De Kalb Historical Society Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, restore, and make available to the public, artifacts and archival materials of historical significance to De Kalb County, Indiana.

Timeline of Events Through the Years

Information extracted from Society Minutes and Newsletters

1965-2015

1965

The De Kalb County Historical Society was formed (November 14) when Stanley Means president of the Northeastern Indiana Historical Society called a meeting to form a county historical society.

The first board was John Martin Smith, President; Stanley Means, Vice-President; Robert Wilder, Secretary; Mary Frances Ankney, Treasurer.

On December 12, 1965 an emergency committee was appointed to raise money and acquire land to save the Cedar Chapel Bridge -- Mrs. (Thais) Harry Heinzerling, Willard Hurni, and William Shultz .

Devotional readings and prayers introduced many of the early meetings.

1966

On Jan. 19 the Articles of incorporation was filed by attorney John Martin Smith and they were accepted.

Bylaw committee met and ion April 22 the Society

By-laws were adopted.

The first priority of the Society was to save the Cedar Creek Bridge and find a location to place it. $500.00 received through a mailing for the Bridge Fund.

The Society meeting at the Courthouse Assembly Room had Stanley Means appointed chairman of a historical museum committee with other members -- Flossie Mavis, Mrs. Ralph McCullough, Harry Heinzerling, Weston Walters.

The Society met at the Eckhart Library with a program by poet Arthur Franklin Mapes.

The Society met at the Corunna School. The program on the history of the Corunna School was given by former teacher Mary Pauline Heupel of Garrett.

Carla Thomas entertained the group by singing several numbers from Mary Poppins.

Another meeting program was prepared by Paul Ankney with slides shown by Dr. Bonnell Souder, John Smith and Kenneth Bevier. The slides were about covered bridges and local historical sites. Several paintings of local covered bridges were displayed by Marcelle (Mrs. Wayne) Voss, Rufus Staley and John Smith.

An informative talk about the history of Fort Wayne was given by David Drury of Allen County Historical Museum

In December a committee was formed to raise funds to save the Cedar Chapel Bridge and find land on which to place it, possibly a park. It was noted that the Federal funds can be distributed by the State of Indiana annually to each county for establishing and maintaining public parks. For eligibility the county must have a County Park Board. – De Kalb County does not have one.

The $1 dollar Charter memberships ended at the

end of 1966 with 115 persons and 10 organizations. Membership fees would be increased to $2.00 single; $3.00 family at the beginning 1967.

1967

The Society meeting was held at Wild Cherry Park in St. Joe where Willard Hurni delivered an educational program about Early Mills along the St. Joe River and Mrs. Mabel Erick told of her childhood remembrances.

Mr. Schaab delivered a program on Industrial history of the City of Auburn, especially the buggy and auto companies. He also spoke about Waterloo when it was the main city of the county.

A vote was made to have the following Society offices: President, 1st and 2nd V. P, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Society had its First Fair booth in Industrial tent to sell items to raise money to help finance the debt on moving the Cedar Chapel Bridge. A hand-made replica of Covered Bridge was used for the fair booth display.

1968

The Society Board made a few changes in the by-laws: Officers to be President; 1st and 2nd Vice President, secretary and treasurer; and they would serve for 2 years instead of 1 year. Various committees were appointed: museum, historical sties, membership, program, and publicity.

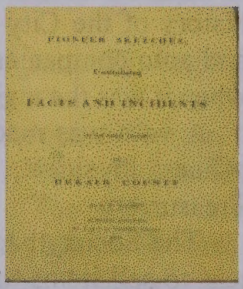
Society meetings to be announced in local papers and perhaps the radio stations.

The Society continued with the Covered Bridge fundraising. Recommendations made for bridge fund: place funds under treasury, raise funds to pay Butler and Butler; meet with County Council and urge creation of a Park Board.

Museum committee formed with Harry Heinzerling, Flossie Mavis, Mrs. Ralph McCollough, and Stanley Means.

The Board held a discussion about placing plaques on historical places in the county.

Meeting times would be alternate months for regular meetings on Sundays, -- November for the annual meeting.



A decision was made to reprint 300 copies "*Pioneer Sketches*" by S. W. Widney, using Widney's original articles from 1850-55 originally published in a local newspaper. Advertisement space to be sold to help offset cost of printing.

Notepaper with an image of the Cedar Creek bridge was printed by Garrett Clipper and sold to raise funds.

It was stated that donations of artifacts would be made to the Society, but there was not a place to store them. The Society is in need of a museum.

Cameron Parks of Garrett gave a presentation about Companies A, F, and G of the 44th Regiment during the Civil War.

Violet Baker gave a history of Newville and the Newville Evangelical United Brethren Church. The

church celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1978.

A meeting held at the Alterstar Church (Cedar Chapel) south of Garrett with a tour of the church cemetery. Harry Heinzerling gave a history of the church and cemetery. The Cedar Chapel Bridge was moved in 1966 and replaced by a newer bridge on County Road 68. The Church was built in 1862. A Tour of the 1837 Heinzerling home which was built by Silas Simon. Mrs. Inman of Kendallville gave some genealogical information about some area settlers – Silas Simon, her grandfather, stated that the grave of the first white person, Barbara Moody, is buried in the Cedar Chapel cemetery.

The Society again participated in the De Kalb County fair using the covered bridge replica.

The first antique exhibit at the fair was held in the courthouse assembly room. Lowell Howard in charge of display. Members shared their antiques.

Harriet Oberlin made a plea to the Society to make an effort to acquire and preserve a one-room schoolhouse in De Kalb County.

County resident Anna Surface was interested in donating a two-story log cabin to the society for a possible museum. Members spoke with County Commissioners about that. No museum. (It eventually was relocated to John Martin Smith's home site).

A Society met at Eckhart Library where a panel held a discussion about the history of De Kalb County schools –Harriet Oberlin, Alice Peckhart and former teachers participated..

Plans were made by the Society to organize a Junior Historical Chapter in the local high schools.

The new pamphlet, Vanguard, published by Ed Long had history articles written by John Martin Smith.

1969

Harriet Oberlin gave an informative report about the Newville Center School building. She has been cleaning it up and wanted names, dates, and people. School equipment would be needed.

Carlton Wilmot had a hundred year old wool carding Mill from the Grabill Woolen Mill and wanted to donate it to the Society. (It later was donated to Conner Prairie)

Notification cards would be sent to members about meetings.

A program about historical clocks was given by a Garrett antique dealer, Jan Buckles.

It was reported that the Dills Covered Bridge was dismantled (April).

A discussion was held about donating the carding mill to Connor Prairie.

A program about the History of the 44th Civil War Regiment was given.

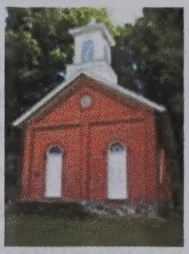
John Scoville gave a history and tour of Newville church and cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Semtz gave a program on antique buttons.

Rolland Muhn gave a tour of the courthouse. Rolland had worked on the finishing in the courthouse.

County commissioners suggested that Surface log cabin could be located in the little roadside park

between Auburn and Waterloo. The county inherited 27 acres on the west side. (De Kalb Central High School and the Middle School were eventually built there).



A membership meeting and program was held at the restored Collins School in Steuben County.

Lowell Howard of Waterloo presented program about various antique lights and lamps.

1970

Harry Heinzerling resigned as president due to health. Robert Wilder replaced him.

Historical Society was ask to help Commissioners to determine what historical sites could be marked with markers.

Willard Hurni gave a program on the history of grist mills and bridges—Webster Mill on Bear Creek; the first Mill built in 1836 by William Mathews; Spencerville mill built by Sawtell in 1838. grist mill of Henry and Tom Murry that produced Pearl Drop flower. Willard Hurni planned to use the lumber from the dismantled Dills Bridge to build a museum. (unknown if completed)

A Society had a tour of the Fort Wayne Historical Society Museum.

Also they had a tour of Harriet Oberlin's home and viewed her antique collections.

1970 Fair booth display consisted of a living room furniture arrangement by Thais Heinzerling and an alumni display by Maxwell.

1971

John Martin Smith spoke about the county Blackleg
Regulators and the county genealogy sources.

Members suggested many historic sites in the county townships that could be recognized with plaques

There were two parties interested in the Cedar Chapel Bridge. They changed their minds.

The courthouse display cases needed cleaning.

Connor Prairie in Noblesville expressed interest in obtaining the covered bridge.

John Scoville offered to help Stanley Means with the antique display at the fair. A blacksmith shop was the theme for the Society display located on the stage in the courthouse assembly room..

A discussion was held about the using the Vanguard publication by the Society. The first issue was to be out in December of 1971.

The County commissioners (via Robert Wilder) gave permission for the Historical Society to take charge of the display cases of Historical artifacts in the Court House

Lloyd Husselman donated an 1863 De Kalb County Map. Wilder and John Martin Smith found a suitable place to display the map in the Court House. (currently framed and located on the second floor, east side).

1971 First Annual Dinner was held at the De Kalb Central High School cafeteria. Pauline Montgomery from Cambridge City presented the program about hand woven coverlets. She eventually published the book, *Indiana Coverlet Weavers and Their Coverlets*

in 1974. The Junior Historical Society state director Bob Montgomery was introduced.

1972

An agreement was made with Connor Prairie to sell them $1343 for the Cedar Chapel Covered Bridge for $1343. They agreed to place a plaque on it with the name "Cedar Chapel Covered Bridge." Connor Prairie farms removed the covered bridge to their park near Noblesville. The money from them was paid to Butler and Butler (Kern Butler) for moving the bridge.

Plans were made to help revamp the Courthouse display cases.

Society members toured Auglaize Village in Defiance County.

Donna Jewel and her "Little Hoosiers" gave a program about "Wax Museum of Indiana Sons and Daughters."

Debbie Turdin sang songs of the Civil war era, people and soldiers.

A number of military items were placed in courthouse cases.

The old carding and weaving mill also went to the Connor Prairie Museum.

The old Carnahan schoolhouse was located on the farm property where Donna Jewel resided.

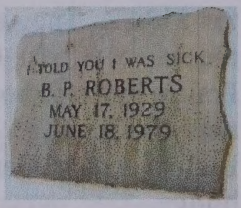
The Society Board discussed returning to 6 meetings a year.

School desks, teacher's desk, and a chair from Newville Center School were displayed on the stage at the courthouse assembly room during the County

Fair by the Historical Society.

Second Annual Banquet was a smorgasbord dinner held at Auburn Methodist Church with a program about clocks by Chet Ludwig and Don Reasonberg. 60 attended. Membership fee decreased back to $2.00.

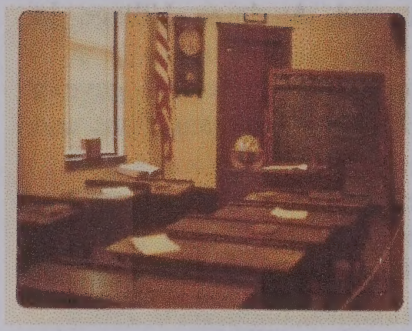
1973



John Scoville gave a program on the history of tokens.

Mrs. Ray Harding gave an entertaining program about unusual and humorous tombstone epitaphs.

The Society hosted the Northeast area Historical Society.



Various members showed family antiques at a meeting and gave the historical back ground about them.

A program on old school houses of De Kalb County was presented by Mr. Rice.

John Scoville encouraged the Society members to continue to collect data on the old county schools.

The Society fair display in the Assembly room of the courthouse represented an early schoolroom -- school desks, chairs, a teacher's desk and chair. The Items were held by Harriet Oberlin and ultimately might be donated to the Society.

Third Annual Dinner was held at the Auburn

Methodist Church with a program by Mrs. Oberlin's about her tour of Boston to Alaska. 83 attended the dinner.

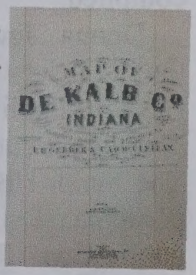
1974

The Society met at Eckhart Public Library, Auburn, with a program presented by Lavon Hart about the history of Spencerville.

Lowell Howard of Waterloo presented a program about Old Methods of Cooking and Baking

1974 Fourth Annual Dinner was held at the First United Methodist in Auburn with a program on Pioneer Art of Spinning by Mrs. Ellingwood of Fort Wayne. The Warstler Sisters gave musical entertainment.. 250 attended.

1975



The Society would sell reprints of 1863 Atlas plat maps and a reprint of the 1880 Plat Maps

Historical articles were published in the Evening Star newspaper. They were written by Troas Wise for March History Month. History displays were placed in area libraries. The theme for the articles was "Make Local History Live"

John Murdock gave an informative slide program about Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Sharon Zonker agave a talk about Auburn Rubber Company toys.

Thais Heinzerling, of Garrett, presented a program about the Greater Garrett Centennial at the meeting in the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

A meeting at Peoples Federal Savings & Loan, Auburn, had a program by Cathy Ainsworth, a member of the Fort Wayne and Allen County Settlers Series.

Fifth Annual Dinner was held at the United Methodist Church, Auburn. The program – a Century of Fashion, was given by Barbara Hutmacher.

The First Society newsletter was distributed at the 1975 banquet (Nov.). An announcement was made in the newsletter that the Historical Society might have its first display at the "Auburn Heritage Building." (Later named changed to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum).

1976

An official membership/mailing list was compiled.

Donna Jewel entertained the Society meeting at Eckhart Public Library with program about Indiana Barns. The Junior Historical Society participated in the Indiana publication. The Junior group is sponsored by the Society.

Skip Marchetti, director of Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, spoke with the Historical Society about the work involved in forming a historic museum.

The De Kalb County Chorus, directed by Pat Beuret, presented a Bicentennial musical program.

Troas Wise chaired the 1885 Atlas reprint project. The sale would provide funds to support a Society

proposed display/museum in the ACD building. The board decided not to sponsor Historic Museum at the ACD Museum Building. Plans terminated. Funds that had been raised were returned to Society.

The meeting at the Savings and Loan had a program "Reflections and History of Early Schools" by Troas Wise and Steve Hissong. Mr. Hissong specialized on Fairfield Township.

Sixth Annual Dinner held at the United Methodist Church in Auburn with a program by Fredrick D. Crane, a silver smith from Woodburn, Indiana. He discussed the history of silver craft and demonstrated working in pewter.

1977

Harriet Oberlin gave a program on her "Opal Safari to the Down Under."

A calling committee was formed to give members notification of meetings.

The Society meeting had a music program given by Mr. and Mrs. Kurtz. Society members also had a show and tell of antiques.

Meeting at Peoples Savings, Auburn was held with a program "German-Americans in Northeast Indiana" by Stephen Harroff and Clifford Scott of IUPU, FW.

John Martin Smith presented a program on the history of the De Kalb County courthouse.

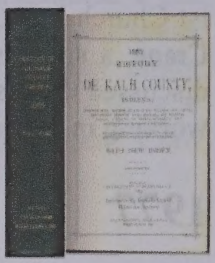
A decision was made to reprint the 1885 County History for fund raising. It was published by the Bookmark Company in Knightstown, Indiana.

Seventh Annual Dinner at the United Methodist

Church with program by Reba Dunmire who was a member of Old Fort Settlers of Fort Wayne. She gave a show and tell about toys and pastimes of Century, USA

1978

Glenda Shull gave a program about Artifacts of Local St. Joe Area. Many of them came from her father's farm.



The Society Board decided to have 300 copies of 1885 County History reprint ordered. $23.00 each. Troas Wise was the chairperson of the project.

Meeting at Indian Village Church of God with a program "The Plain People of Indiana by Stephen Harrof from IUPU in FW.

Franklin Kenworthy of Fort Wayne presented a program about the Development of early American Theater

Dorothy Lower, Fort Wayne librarian in the genealogy department gave a lecture on the topic of genealogy.

Eighth annual Dinner to be held at United Methodist Church, Auburn.

1979

The Society held its meeting at Eckhart Public Library with a program by Debra Faussett, assistant director of the Indiana Junior Historical Society, Indianapolis. She recounted the travels of John Hunt Morgan through Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky during

t

the Civil War.

President Donna Clark gave an illustrated lecture on Indiana Authors.

Another meeting at Eckhart Public Library with a program by Willard Hurni on "Organic Gardening."

GAP in MINUTE BOOKS

1979 Ninth Annual Dinner held at Auburn United Methodist Church with a program on "Governors and Their Portraits" by Mary Jane Meeker of the Indiana Historical Bureau.

1980

The Society Board made the decision to combine the offices of secretary and treasurer.

A program by Skip Marketti concerned the development of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg (ACD) museum in Auburn.

A Society meeting was held at ACD Museum with a program by Lavon Hart on the "Historic sites of Fort Wayne."

Bob Wilder presented a slide program on "Making Applebutter." Samples were enjoyed by all attendees.

Sixty-six people entered antiques in the De Kalb County Historical Society booth display at Middaugh Hall during Fair Week.

Tenth Annual Dinner was held at the Christian Church on Ashley Road, CR 31. Unknown program.

1981

The Board decided to reprint the 1863 De Kalb county map. (plat map)

Sharon Zonker, local teacher, gave a program about "Unsung Heroes of American Freedom."

A program was given by David Scranage a Waterloo resident He had traveled to Alaska along the Alaskan Highway.

The Society made a visit to the Oberlin's "The Old Dam Site Farm." They had a tour of the dam, cemetery and surrounding area of Orangeville-Concord Township.

The Northeastern Indiana Historical Society made a donation of $31.48 to the Historical Society. That organization was then disbanded.

Eleventh Annual Dinner to be held at Waterloo Methodist Church. The History of Clowns by Rachael Roberts. Rachael and her three children were dressed in clown costumes.

1982

John Martin Smith gave a talk on ABC's of Historical Research.

The History of Auburn Women's Society, which was founded in 1882 and the oldest women's club in Indiana, was given by Joyce McIntyre. A diary and various photos were shown.

The Society meeting was held at Eckhart Public Library with a program about the "Local Roots in the Auburn Fair" given by Lois Cobler of Garrett.

A Society project involved collecting and reprinting historical articles written by Earl Husselman.

Twelfth Annual Dinner held at Mt. Pleasant Church in Wilmington Township with a program about Canals by Ed O'Brien, a teacher from Crown Point. 66 attended.

1983

The Society project of collecting the Husselman articles was continued.

The co-project of the Houlton Chapter of the DAR and DCHS of Delayed Birth Certificates was finished. Copies of the books were given to Allen County Public Library, Eckhart Library, and the DAR library in Washington D.C.

Troas Wise and Kate Vose presented a program to the Society about preserving historical records and especially cemeteries.

The 1885 History reprints were all sold out; Atlases and Pioneer Sketches still available.

Harriet Oberlin gave a talk about Famous Sons and Daughters of Indiana.

Cemetery inscriptions were still being read by DAR members with Troas Wise in charge.

The Society had a program on procedures necessary to get historical buildings on the National Register.

Ed Sheehy of Waterloo, spoke about the Waterloo Depot Project and showed pictures.

Marcelle Voss presented a program about Carnival Glass at a meeting held at Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Troas Wise told about the Society's possessions

formerly stored by Stanley Means. (He had died in 1983). Places suggested to receive them to display were ADC Museum and Waterloo Depot. Dorothy Werkheiser to help Troas inventory contents of the trunk. (No list has been found of these items)

Thirteenth Annual Dinner at Mt. Pleasant Church, Wilmington Township, with slide program by Dr. Douglas Morrow about his visit to Haiti. 56 attended.

Marion Peckhart also presented a program about the businesses and homes in the general area of the business district of Auburn around 1900.

Kathleen Vose was placed in charge of the newsletter.

1984

The historical society members attended the 100th Anniversary of the Waterloo Minerva Club.

John Martin Smith presented an interesting talk by using slides of photos taken by Henry Link of Waterloo.

A booklet listing the soldiers buried in the Eddy Cemetery near Butler was presented to the society. (unknown donor).

Wilber and Ruth Buffenbarger from the Noble County Historical Society presented a program of slides showing the Society's Museum in Albion.

John Martin Smith proposed re-printing the plat map of 1863.

Lloyd Husselman presented a program at the Auburn Presbyterian Church about his father who had been in the Ku Klux Klan of

De Kalb County in the 1920's. Lloyd showed a number of robes and books with the Klan records.

Fourteenth Annual Dinner was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo. Father Eugene Zimmerman was present. Helen Ellert of Ashley presented a slide program about her trip to the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula and the lost civilization of the Mayas.

1985

The Society enjoyed a program by Mrs. Willard Maxwell about the inaugural dresses of past president wives. The dresses are in the collection of the Smithsonian institute. .

Troas Wise contributed historical articles to the Evening Star for February History month.

Max Hamman presented a program about his family who were early settlers in Smithfield Township, De Kalb County. Four generations have lived on the family farm located north of Waterloo on County Road 35.

A meeting was held at the Gengnagel Railroad Museum in Auburn. It was formerly the Gengnagel Lumber Yard located on West 7th Street across from Rieke Company.

Troas Wise and Hubert Stackhouse worked on locating significant historical sites in De Kalb.

Marion Peckhart gave the Society 27 pictures of De Kalb County school houses.

A letter was received from John Martin Smith asking for help in the compiling an up-to-date history of De Kalb County to commemorate the upcoming sesquicentennial celebration to be held in 1987.

Fifteenth Annual Dinner was held at the

Spencerville United Methodist Church Hall. John Martin Smith announced that plans for the 150th anniversary of De Kalb County were being made, including family biographies, pictures and various aspects of county history.

Rev. David Abel of Waterloo presented a slide show about his trip to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

1986

Program with Ruth Maxwell, Parla Hull and Lloyd Mertz about "things of the past" that were shown in a collection of clippings and pictures.

Meeting was held at Newville Center School on County Roads 60 and 75. The program was by Harriet Wasson and Mr. and Mrs. Ford. Harriet taught at a one-room school and the Ford's renovated the Newville schoolhouse.

(no nominating committee that year) A program was by Don Arwing, who spoke on safe guarding valuable antiques.

Sixteenth Annual Dinner at the Auburn United Methodist Church with program about Samuel Adams by Sharon Zonker, who portrayed Mrs. Samuel Adams.

John Martin Smith announced that December 1986 was the closing date for ordering the De Kalb County history books.

A Sesquicentennial calendar was printed with local artwork of historical interest.

1987

The January meeting program was by Lucille Koch who told about the reasons why our ancestors settled in De Kalb County.

The board of directors was appointed for the year.

A discussion was held about the sale of 1863 atlases and Sesquicentennial calendars.

A program was given by Kathleen Vose about the history of Newville.

A suggestion was made about placing a marker on the grave of "Sassafras John -- a well known character of De Kalb County. (unknown if it was completed)

Judy Knapp gave a program about "Women Of America."

A meeting was held (at unknown location) with a potluck lunch followed by a tour of Fairfield with commentary by resident Lloyd Mertz.

Roxanne Fike from the De Kalb County Quilt Guild ask for a donation to help with their showing of historical quilts on July 25 at the Auburn United Methodist Church. The Society donated $50.00

A discussion was held to determine what to do improve interest and growth in the Society. Members shared antiques and comments.

Seventeenth Annual Dinner, held at (possibly Waterloo United Methodist Church) with Rev. David Abel, -- pastor of that church who gave the invocation. Neal Simon gave the program about Civil War apparel and other articles used in that war.

Lowell Howard of Waterloo showed some items he had collected from various battlefields of that conflict.

Helen Ward played piano and organ during the meal. John Martin Smith announced that Vol. 2 of the Sesquicennnial history books would be available before Christmas with Vol.1 to be available afterwards.

1988

A meeting held at an unknown location had a program of *Show and Tell.* Items shown were: a Fraktur baptism certificate in German; a Corydon Indiana Newspaper; toy kitchen pots and pans over 100 years old; a report of a wedding in the 1800's; a collection of Santa Claus post cards; a tea leaf iron stove; brush holder, and church records from 1910; Vanguard Magazines by Marion Peckhart; a farm ledger from 1901; a 1914 history by Mrs. Long; a necktie clip with gold quartz by Harold Curie.

The Society Board voted to help sponsor books on the De Kalb Cemeteries. The DAR members read the tombstone inscriptions and the Society helped with the printing.

An ad was placed in the Genealogical Helper to sell the 1863 Atlases and the Pioneer Sketches.

Ford and Helen Perkins spoke about Fairfield Township events, locations and historical memories. A ceramic spittoon was shown as well as other items from the past.

Marion Peckhart shared his famous cookies as he did at other meetings and locations.

A Society meeting was held at an unknown location with Joe Harter and Shirley Scott speaking about Newville and surrounding area. They showed a collection of pictures about the area.

Meeting was held at the Auburn Presbyterian

Church with slate of officers accepted -- Joe Rugman as President. Free left-over calendars were given out with the County history books that were purchased.

Eighteenth Annual Dinner was held at the Waterloo United Methodist Church with a program delivered by Curt Witcher, manager of Allen County Library Genealogy Department. Curt spoke about the amount of historical and genealogical information available at the library.

1989

A meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church in Auburn with Troas Wise reporting on about the history of the Society: incorporated 1966; sale of re-print 1880 atlas; sale of 1885 history reprint; and 1863 atlas.

Cemetery inscription books with three volumes finished and two in need of being typed. A suggestion and motion made and passed to have an annual historical history item be printed throughout the year. Joe Rugman, Margaret Drerup and Judy Knapp appointed publicity committee.

Society meeting was held at Auburn Presbyterian Church with silent prayer for Marion Peckhart, who passed away and will be greatly missed. His chocolate chip cookies were enjoyed at many of the Society meetings.

A meeting and potluck meal was held at the Hamilton Grange hall. Mabel Bry gave the program on Granges with the help of Roscoe Taylor, Arco Goller, and Etta Mortoff.

Pres. Joe Rugman suggested that another calendar be printed. Shirley Scott made a motion that the Society should publish a calendar every year and the motion it was accepted.

Another Society meeting was held at the Harvest House Restaurant in Hamilton where some members ate before visiting sites in the Fish Creek area; the Octagon House near Hamilton (CR 6 & 65), where Donna June Knox gave a history of the house and area; the location where John Houlton settled showing a monument that was placed there by the Houlton family; Fish Creek and a tour at Artic, once a small town.

The first newsletter named, DCHS News, was published, August 17, Vol 1 of No 1. It included a memorial article on Marion Peckhart, a well loved man around Auburn. The article was written by Dave Kurtz in the Evening Star. (Feb. 17, 1989, pg 8A).

Nineteenth Annual Banquet was held at the United Methodist Church in Auburn. Guest speaker was Sam DeVincent of Fort Wayne WOWO radio station. He played piano, sang, and told stories of his radio experiences.

1990

It was reported that little money was made on sale of calendars. Were they worth the cost of publishing.

An interesting program was presented by Margaret Demeck on the topic of Wagon Trains and Waterways.

Copies of the Cemetery inscription books were given to De Kalb libraries and Allen County Public Library, in Fort Wayne.

A meeting was held at Farm Bureau Building in Auburn with a vote to increase memberships to $3.00 per year.

A suggestion was made by Joe Rugman that the Society should publish a small booklet each year with family histories that did not get in the 1987 county history.

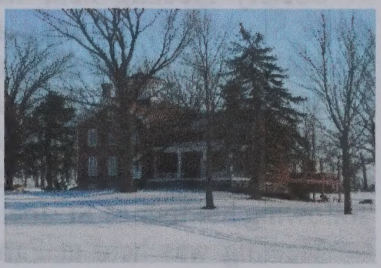
The calendar for the year would depict the theme of county school houses with drawings made by students.

Troas Wise gave a program on "Let Us Remember Our Builders." Various members reported on the following: Owen Bangs, Harold Urey, Jacob D. Leighty, Little Jack Little, John Perry Long, Frank K. Finch, and Vincent Trunson.

The Society meeting was held at the Spencerville Community Building and was followed by a tour of John and Carol Carpenter's home. They had a collection of clocks -- one from the International Harvester Tower in Fort Wayne. The members also listened to music played on their old restored theater organ.

It was stated that the old Court Theater organ went to the old Calvary Temple Church. (FW? Unknown happened to it from there?)

Margaret Drerup gave a report on her trip to Greece.



Thirty-five Society members and guests toured the home of John Martin and Bobbie Smith's home and the Anna Surface log cabin he had moved to his property.

Mary Noel gave a short history of the Altarstar United Methodist south of Garrett after that tour was completed they the tour to hear about the history of Harold and Thais Heinzerling's home.

Twentieth Annual Dinner was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church north of Waterloo. Roses were presented to John Martin Smith (history volumes) and Troas Wise (biography) for their work on the 1987 Sesquicentennial county history. Peggy Seigel presented slides and program about "She Went to War" concerning nurses who served during the Civil War.

1991

The Society meeting was held at Farm Bureau building in Auburn with a program by Daniel Yaboak about the history of his native country Ahana, Africa. He displayed money, pictures, and clothing from his country.

The Board held discussions on ways to raise money to cover expenses.

The next 1992 calendars would depict images of transportation. Floyd Link gave a report about the Auburn Junction. A report was given the progress of the Garrett Historical Society about the moving of the train to the new north park.

Society meeting held with a program given by Gene Sinn of Bryan Ohio about his antique dishes. He collected Prussian containers.

Meeting at the St. Joe town hall with a program by Doris Yeiser, a life-time resident, about the history of the town. She showed post cards and pictures following her tour of St. Joe.

Meeting was held at Farm Bureau, Auburn, with discussion about the Society's fair booth and sale of calendars.

A vote was taken about making postcards from pictures to sell at the fair booth.

Sharron Johnson and Judy Knapp gave facts about the "Save the Jail" project.

Guest Bess Mochamer, former Auburn resident suggested that she would help organize a Questers Club in the area.

Twenty-first Annual Dinner was held at the Garrett Nazarene Church. The program was presented by Siguard Hepler. She spoke about the Allen County Historical Fort, describing the life of a soldier in the 1800's.

There was some discussion on working on a county directory and a county museum.

1992

There were discussions about the courthouse display cases. Dr. Paul Teaush and Hubert Stackhouse investigated the facts on the historical cases in the courthouse. Hubert Stackhouse spoke with a county commissioner about the display cases. A portion of the displayed items were from the Eckhart Public Library, and some belonged to the Historical Society.

Discussion was conducted concerning the possible use of old Gerig Funeral Home at 368 West 7th Street and Indiana Avenue for a museum. It would cost $550 a month rent with first option to buy. That would be too costly for the Society.

The Society began collecting and placing Society articles in scrapbooks

Society guest, Gregory Buttermore, spoke about how the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum was started and made suggestions on how to go about establishing a museum.

A program was given by Jack Biddlecome of

Bryan, Ohio, about the history of fountain pens and inkwells.

The Society enjoyed a tour of Corunna, Indiana.

The Society had a tray printed with an image of the Spencerville Covered Bridge and sold it as a fundraiser.

Labor Day tours of Auburn historic homes associated with the ACD Car Company were made with Sharron Johnson in charge of that event.

Thirty-Second Annual Dinner:
NO INFORMATION found

MISSION STATEMENT FOR A HISTORICAL MUSEUM

By John Martin Smith
Jan. 26, 1992

It shall be the mission of the De Kalb County Historical Museum to collect and interpret artifacts which reflect the unique Agricultural, Industrial and Family History of De Kalb County, Indiana.

Museum building acquisition 2000
Formerly the Butler Carnegie Public Library

A FEW MINUTES FOR THE YEARS 1993 THROUGH 1999-
A FEW NEWSLETTERS FOUND.

1993

NO MINUTES FOR THE YEAR

One newsletter found titled DCHS News.

Meeting held at the Farm Bureau Building in Auburn with guest speaker, Hubert Stackhouse, a retired teacher. Hubert has published many of his writings such as "Reflections."

Many items were for sale at the Society booth at the Industrial tent during the county fair – Covered Bridge trays, calendars, atlases, post cards, 1987 History books and other items. The 1994 calendars were sold – artwork from students at De Kalb, Eastside and Garrett High schools. Sketches were about buildings and other objects found in De Kalb County.

The Society sold items at the Flea Market in the Westedge Mall, Auburn.

The Society sponsored historical tours of Auburn during the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Labor Day weekend festival.

Thirty-Third Annual Dinner was held at the Norris Chapel Church with speaker Nancy Niblack Baxter. She was the author of Hoosier Farm Boy in Lincoln's Army; Gallant Fourteenth: The Story of an Indiana Civil War Regiment. She used letters of her

ancestors who served in the Fourteenth.

1994

The new name for the newsletter DCHS Newsletter.

A slide show program was given by Charlie Willer about "Those Redderson Lightweights.

Program on Interurban railroad delivered by Rosalie Spirek.

A program was given about the underground Railway History.

The Society had a booth at the Kruse Toy and Model Show.

Auburn Downtown Tours were given by Sharron Johnson.

The Society sponsored a Native American Day Indian Powwow at Eckhart Park, Auburn.

A potluck dinner was held at the Jerusalem Church and schoolhouse with a history given by the Knox family.

The Society held a Show Your Treasures and program on crystal.

Thirty-Fourth Annual Dinner:
NO INFORMATION FOUND.

1995

Larry Baker spoke about genealogy and the establishment of the De Kalb County Indiana Genealogy Society.

Rosalie Spirek was to be chairman of the Museum Society.

Eugene Sinn spoke on Royal Bayreuth China.

Professor James Farlow from IPFW spoke about

on paleontology. He has written several books on dinosaurs.

Cal Groscup's home tour; trip to Barker's Chapel; Doris Hess on Memories of WW II.

1995 The newsletter, DCHS News, to be published quarterly.

Rosalie Spirek chair of the museum committee presented information as to whether or not to form a Museum.

ACD Historical tours; fair booth; antiques at Middaugh Hall.

1995 Thirty-Fifth Annual Dinner program by Jon D. Kindred on James Whitcomb Riley. Unknown location.

1996, 1997

Little or no information/minutes found.

1998

Thirty-Sixth Annual Dinner meeting at St. Michaels Catholic Church with a program by Kevin Beuret on the Titanic. 48 attended.

1999

The Society decided to have the newsletter sent out every month (was then called News & Views)

A meeting was held at First Christian Church in Auburn with speaker Russ Baker from the Mid-American Windmill Museum east of Kendallville.

2000

Meeting was held at the First Christian Church, Auburn, with speaker John Martin Smith about "suggestions on the conception and growth of a successful grass roots county museum."

A Meeting held at the Auburn Presbyterian Church was entertained by a WASP (Women's Airforce Service Pilots), who told about her experience in flying during World War 2. She gave an account of her training duties during the 1940's.

Pam Schlosser shared information about her great, great grandfather's wind instruments – a flute, fife, and piccolo.

A Summer meeting was held at Pokagon State Park with a program by Fred Wooley and Roger Woodcock about the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). Buffet and program was enjoyed by 26 members and guests.

John Harris, Director of the Local Historical Organization of Indiana, spoke to the Society about what it takes to keep a museum going.

David Kruse contracted and acted on behalf of the Society by going over the contract with the Butler Library.

Dues were raised to $10.00 single; $15.00 family. The increase will help with museum expenses and the newsletter.

The museum committee members were Sally Garrett, Pam Schlosser, and David Fry.

Sally discussed what was involved in research for writing a novel. She had written and sold a number paperback fiction.

Business Plans and the Mission for the museum were discussed.

A program was given by Sharron Johnson about Jesse James.

Rosalie Spirek and her committee gave a report about historical museums in other counties.

The Society met at the First Christian church in Auburn with a program by Franklin Sechler who spoke about when and how his father started the Sechler's Pickle Company, St. Joe.

Donna Clark spoke about the fourth grade Little Hoosiers and their History of Orangeville.

The August meeting was held by Society members and Butler Library board member, Burt Campbell, about obtaining the Butler Carnegie Library building for a Society museum. Sally Garrett was the Society representative.

Program by Rachael Roberts about clowns, hobos and the Houlton Circus of De Kalb county.

The September meeting program was given by Scott W. Mertz, portrayer of "Johnny Appleseed."

A Society booth was again in the Industrial tent at the Fair and shared with the Preservation of De Kalb Heritage group. (PDH)

A Century Towel was printed and was sold at the Fair. It depicted a hundred years of landmarks in De Kalb County including the Sacred Heart Hospital, County Line Cheese, Sechler's Pickles, Francis Thompson Memorial Park in Waterloo and others.

Thirty-Seventh Annual Dinner held at Zion Lutheran Church with radio personality Bob Sievers of WOWO. 65 members listed.

2001

Several grants applied for but not approved. Volunteers worked to clean and prepare the building for use and to show the community.

Sept 9 was an introductory open house of the museum. Music provided by Dwight Zerkle of Waterloo on mountain dulcimer and George Peters of Garrett on harmonica.

The Society continued to be involved with antique display in Middaugh Hall during the Free Fall Fair. The annual Industrial Tent Fair booth shared with Preservation of De Kalb Heritage organization and helped sell their bells.

The Society held a field trip to Mavis Church's underground railroad house in Fremont.

Thirty-Ninth Annual Dinner was held at the Waterloo Cornerstone Grill with a program by Charles Larimer about researching and publishing his book, "Love and Valor: Intimate Civil War Letters between Cpt. Jacob and Emeline Ritner.

An attempt to obtain a grant from Community Foundation to do oral histories was unsuccessful. Other entities were collecting military veterans memories.

Museum Founders Plaques were sold to honor an ancestor, loved one, or friend to help garner funds to support the Society's new museum: gold at $250; silver $100, bronze $50. They are in place on the wall of the South (main) entry to the Museum. (still available)

A meeting was held at the former Butler Public Library building to show it to attendees.

David Kruse oversaw the Society legal paperwork and John Martin Smith worked with the Butler Library board to reach a beneficial agreement between the two entities.

The Society become owner of the building in mid May; guests were Connie Rendfeld of Indiana Historical Society, Todd Zeiger of Indiana Landmarks, and a representative from a firm in Fort Wayne who was experienced in restorations of historic buildings.

The Society became an IRS 501.C3 non-profit. Officially acquired in July 2000.

ACD Museum donated a large collection of textiles and clothing to the Museum.

A donation of large stage flats was given by Robert P. Sickmiller of Garrett that had been stored in his barn for many years.

Thirty-Eighth Annual Dinner held at Cornerstone Grill Banquet Hall (formerly Veterans of Foreign War Hall), Waterloo with Myrna J. Grove of Bryan, Ohio on her book, "Legacy of One-Room Schools."

Several De Kalb County graduation photos were donated to museum, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1928 as well as other school photos.

At that time an eight-page newsletter was being published with the title "De Kalb County Historical Society."

Neil Strock, Butler, donated a lovely bronze plaque located near the Museum entrance.

The Modern Woodsmen Of America, Camp 10221 of LaGrange sponsored a matching fund project Sept. to Dec. 2001. It matched the $2500 raised by the Society. Other fundraising items for sale include; calendars, Bridge trays, atlas, Pioneer Sketches, County History 1987, 1920 History, and other paperback booklets.

2002

Meeting held at the Museum with guest speaker Boyd Gonser, Corunna, on "Native American Points & Tools." The work on the museum continued.

An extensive collection of courthouse records including civil, guardianship, and estate cases from 1913 to 1970's were stored at the museum with the help of volunteers and Preservation of De Kalb History (PDH) who rescued them from destruction.

The Acting curator of the Museum is Sally Garrett.

PHD provided funds for file folders to hold the courthouse records and volunteers working on filing and indexing them.

Several donations to the museum included: Harriet Yarian's wedding dress and baby shoes and a Butler Band Uniform by Barb Lockwood.

2002 Potluck dinner was held along with a field trip tour of the historical home of charter member Thais Heinzerling, Garrett.

2002 Fair booth sold popcorn, trays, towels, atlases, and county history books.

2002 Fortieth Annual Dinner was held at Norris Chapel United Methodist Church on CR 40A. Guest speaker was Kurt A. Meyer, preservationist and author of *Stardust*. Book signing was held after banquet.

KPC Evening Star

De Kalb Covered Bridge Returns to Original Glory at Conner Prairie

By DAVE KURTZ
April 6, 2002 – FISHERS

A 118-year-old covered bridge from De Kalb County begins a new life today at Conner Prairie.

The living history museum in Fishers has restored the Cedar Chapel Covered Bridge to its original beauty, gleaming in red and white with three handsome cupolas on top.

The bridge will link Conner Prairie's 1836 history exhibits with its new area depicting rural life in 1886.

A dedication ceremony for the bridge at 10 a.m. today celebrates this season's opening for Conner Prairie. Children dressed in 1836 costumes will cut a ribbon with children in 1886 garb.

We are using the bridge to serve as a sort of time-travel tunnel, where you leave 1836 and you go through the bridge and as you exit you've been transformed to 50 years later in 1886, said Melissa Snider, communications manager for Conner Prairie.

Built in 1884, the bridge spanned Cedar Creek on County Road 68 in southwestern De Kalb County for its first 82 years.

By 1966, the bridge no longer could carry modern traffic. The newly formed De Kalb County Historical Society came to its rescue, buying it from the state for $1.

There was no way that the bridge was going to stay there, so I led the charge to move it off its site before the new bridge went in, as De Kalb County historian John Martin Smith recalled this week.

The bridge rested in a woods near its original location from 1966 to 1972 while local leaders searched for a way to preserve it.

They briefly considered moving it to Eckhart Park in Auburn. "Really the bridge was just too big for Cedar Creek at that location," Smith said. The bridge stretches 112 feet in length.

Discussions about a new county park to become the bridge's home never gained political support.

"I could see that nothing was going to happen here and the bridge was deteriorating where it was located," Smith said. Local history buffs turned to Conner Prairie to save it, selling it to the museum for $1,343 in 1972.

"They were really enthusiastic about acquiring it and moving it down there," Smith noted.

Conner Prairie benefactor Eli Lilly personally paid for transporting the bridge to the museum in Hamilton County.

"They were prefab to begin with, so it wasn't that bad to take it apart and move it," Smith said of the bridge.

Conner Prairie was making plans for an 1886 village 30 years ago, Smith said. But then the museum's leadership changed.

"That particular project was abandoned and the bridge just sat there for years," Smith said. "It was in a very obscure place. Unless you knew where it was, you'd never see it."

For three decades, Smith was left with mixed feelings. He had saved the bridge from destruction, only to see it ignored.

But Conner Prairie hadn't forgotten about its historic treasure.

"We knew that we wanted to use it at some point," Dan Schoeneberg, historic area manager for the museum, said Friday.

By the turn of the century, Conner Prairie had revived the idea of an exhibit depicting rural life in 1886.

The museum's experts thought, "Aha, this is the perfect opportunity to use this wonderful bridge," Schoeneberg said.

Refurbishing of the bridge began last year.

"The cross braces and the trussing system were in fairly good shape because the bridge had been covered," Schoeneberg said.

Restoration teams gave the bridge a new roof, new siding, and a paint job that accurately reflects how it appeared when it was first constructed.

Early photographs showed restorers how George Woerntz and Sons had built the bridge.

"One of their signature features on their bridges was to put cupolas on the bridge. Those were to allow light and ventilation to the bridge," Schoeneberg explained. Three handsome cupolas were returned to the structure's roofline.

A paint scheme of white and barn-red finished the facelift. Restoration crews had found evidence of red paint on the truss system throughout the bridge.

"Red paint during that time was very cheap and readily available," Schoeneberg explained.

"We're very, very pleased and proud to have the bridge look as it did in its early days. It's fabulous structure."

The result also delighted Smith, who planned to attend this morning's dedication of the bridge.

"Some projects take a long time to come to a conclusion," Smith said, "and this one probably sets a record.

2003

Sally Garrett sent out letters to members with a plea for donations to help defray utility bills, insurance, and daily operating expenses of the Museum. Money was received and used to pay insurance. Grants looked into for funds. Board was looking for a purchaser of the stage flats.

County Counsel and Commissioners approached about supporting the museum. Not available.

The Society By-laws were revised.

The newsletter would use the name: *De Kalb County Historical Society.*

Meeting was held at the home of Max and Doris Hamman, Waterloo, with a tour of their historic pioneer home which was located behind their large farmhouse. Their farm is a documented *Centennial Farmstead.*

Many iris plants were donated by Alice Simper to beautify the entrance and west side of the building.

Many ideas discussed for fund raising to support the Museum.

The Society participated in the Third Annual Heartland Museum Festival in Butler, Indiana at the former Butler Company grounds. The buildings owned by Neil Strock.

Historical Society annual potluck outing was held at the home of Burt and Elsie Dickman, Auburn with speaker James Cooper on "Iron Bridges." Burt Dickman has an iron bridge on his property.

A meeting was held at the Museum with speaker Barbara Haynes on "Interpreting Courthouse Civil Records."

A meeting was held at the Museum showing a display of Wedgewood blue dishes that had been

organization.

An extensive prehistoric collection of Indiana artifacts donated to the Museum by Farrell Hanna. It was evaluated and dated by Mr. White of IPFW.

Trade was made with the Willennar Center for the society's collection of newspapers in exchange for: a file cabinet, three chairs from the Jane Niles estate and $300.00.

A vote by the Board to sponsor, Hubert Stackhouse, former teacher, local author, as guest speaker at the Heartland Festival.

Extensive cleanup was at the Museum. Several used display cases were purchased for the museum with donations from members. Gregg Williamson became the temporary curator.

The Society met and had a tour of the Garrett Historical Museum.

The John Houlton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) visited the Museum.

The Fall Fair booth had many items for sale, including tickets sold for a drawing on a large log cabin quilt. A new item to sell was coffee mugs with an image of the first county courthouse.

A meeting and history lecture co-sponsored with the Willennar Center was Alan Gaff, author of Bayonets in the Wilderness about Gen. Anthony Wayne in Indiana.

The Butler newspaper collection was returned to the Museum from Willennar Center. The Heartland Museum holds a number of Society items in storage. Several stage backdrops given to Neil Strock in exchange for using his storage space.

The Society Board met with Todd Zeiger of

Historic Landmarks Foundation to gain information and advice on use, restoration of the museum building and how to seek financial support.

Forty-Second Annual Dinner held at Norris Chapel with speaker, Jon Bill. Director of Education and Archives at ACD Museum. Speaking about E. L. Cord.

The winner of the log cabin quilt drawing was announced.

Sally Garrett signed a contract to be the curator of the museum. The Board approved the curator job description.

2005

The De Kalb County Historical Society and the De Kalb County Indiana Genealogy Society agreed to do a co-operative project to compile and publish the De Kalb County Families, Part Two, a history of families in the county. Committee members: John Martin Smith, County Historian, Gregg Williamson (DCHS), and Roselyn Wells (DCIGS)

A meeting was held at the Willennar Genealogy Center with a program by Gregg Williamson, manager of the Center, on '*Churches of De Kalb County.*'

2005 Andrew White of IPFW identified and classified the Hanna Indian collection.

Curtis Shoemaker was hired to build shelves in lower floor "newspaper" room and in the north end storage room.

Several Butler High School yearbooks were traded with the Willennar Center, Auburn to add to the collection.

Six oak library/museum chairs were given to

Heartland Museum in exchange for use of their building for storage of office modules and assorted office items.

A meeting was held at the Willennar Genealogy Center with a program by Maxine Harvey about the history of homemaker's clubs in De Kalb County 1918 to 2005.

The Society received De Kalb County Visitor's Bureau grant to produce a brochure.

A potluck dinner was held at Newville Church of Christ with a program about the schools in that area. Several members traveled to view school #3, -- Newville Center School. Shirley Scott , Sally Garrett, and Harold Currie shared information about one-room schools. Some also viewed the last remaining iron bridge in De Kalb located on CR 75.

The Open House at the Museum was on July 16: Celebrations of the 40 anniversary of DCHS and 90 yrs. for the building. Several charter members honored.

Sally Garrett gave a program on the History of Carnegie Libraries in Indiana. A large diorama of Summit , Indiana made by Bruce Johnson was displayed at the Museum.

The Society established an email address: dekalbhistory@yahoo.com.

The Historical Society sponsored an Indian Heritage Day at Eckhart Park, Auburn. George Anziana of the Odawa tribe of Northern Michigan spoke about his heritage in a two-day event.

The Society meeting was held at the Museum with special speaker Andrew White from IPFW speaking about the Hanna Indiana Artifact Collection and the prehistoric residents in our county that lived along the St. Joe River.

2005 No Annual Dinner held in November that

year. Cancelled due to lack of registrations.

2006

The Board election held in January instead of November of 2005.

Gregg Williamson gave a slide show about early township schools and information about the towns of Altona, Ashley, Auburn, Butler, Corunna, Garrett, and Waterloo.

A Historical Lecture held at the Willennar Genealogy Center was given by Ed McDonald about his 21 years of service with the Auburn Police Department.

The Board saw a need to change the by-laws concerning elections.

The De Kalb County History Society and the De Kalb County Indiana Genealogy Society co-produced the De Kalb Family History book with biographies and photos of those who contributed family information.

Museum displays for the season included: Bruce Johnson's diorama of Summit.

A "Hoosier" style cabinet was donated but in poor shape. Member, Denver Hamman, repaired it. It was identified as a 1909 McDougal Cabinet and it is in the Domestic area.

A Society member donated a Union Rug Loom to demonstrate weaving. Many books and other artifacts were donated to the museum

Founders Plaque Program: Gold, Silver and bronze plaques were sold and displayed in entryway of the museum. They are purchased to honor friends, family, or ancestors and inscribed with

their names. (Still an ongoing project).

The Publication Committee was formed to work on a county schoolbook.

The newsletter was to be published quarterly.

Bertie Ryerson, De Kalb County Recorder, spoke at a meeting about her responsibilities as a County Recorder and explained what is held in the Recorders office.

A historical lecture at the Willennar Genealogy Center was about the Ku Klux Klan formerly in De Kalb County.

New Museum and Society brochures were printed and available.

Pioneer Sketches by Widney was reprinted in more legible script.

On June 24, 25 Indian Heritage Days were held at the De Kalb Fair Grounds. The attendees observed a Grand March, dances, stories, crafts, singing, and history lessons. Admission was charged to cover expenses.

Discussions were held by the Board Members about the financial problems of the Museum and how to deal with them.

The Open House meeting was held at the museum and a program was given by Torri Krontz the proprietor of the Antique Store in downtown Butler.

The Society had a tour of NATMUS (National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States) located in Auburn. They also enjoyed a potluck meal.

A meeting was located at the Willennar Genealogy Center with a lecture about the Black Swamp in Ohio and its affect on migration to Indiana.

"Save Our History Museum" call out for help by the Society for needed operating funds.

The revised by-laws and Standing Rules were adopted in June/July.

The lecture held at the Willennar Genealogy Center was about John Bowersox, a silent screen star from De Kalb County.

Sharon Zonker presented a program on Civil War from the ladies point of view. She was dressed as that era costume/garb.

The Society had a booth at the Waterloo Sesquicentennial celebration in August.

Maurice Bonecutter represented the Historical Society by driving his 1919 Ford Depot Hack in the Fall Fair parade.

A new item to sell was an etched glass sun catcher window ornament with an image of the first school in De Kalb County, Newville Academy. A fundraiser item to be sold at the booth during the County Fair and at the museum.

Forty-Third Annual Banquet held at the United Methodist Church in Waterloo. Alan McPherson, author of book, "Temple of Knowledge: Carnegie Libraries in Indiana," was the guest speaker. A copy of the book was donated to the museum which was built as a Carnegie Library building. It was depicted in his book. The Waterloo Library and Garrett Library are also Carnegie buildings.

2007

Roxanne Fike, president, held meeting at the Garrett Railroad Museum with tour and treats.

A Newville glass sun catcher was donated to the Lt. Governor's Xmas tree.

Several used computers were donated to museum.

The Butler American Legion Post 202 donated

$2000.00 to the Society and Museum.

The Society participated in the Big Read event by setting up of a general store with examples of the items needed to go to the Klondike for the gold rush. Ida and Denver Hamman represented Ira and Millie Brandon at the Eckhart Park Pavilion. Ira Brandon, a county resident, had participated in the Gold Rush.

The Society had a tour of the Philo Farnsworth TV History Collection located at the Kruse History Museum. The show included old televisions, radios, TV guides, televisions and other related items. The guest speaker gave a history of Farnsworth and his Fort Wayne connection. (The display was closed in 2012)

A number of Society members demonstrated Old Time crafts at McKinney-Harrison School for their Pioneer Days – toys, quilting, needlework, weaving, and a lap dulcimer demonstration.

The Society went to Laotto, Indiana and toured a private collection of antique bicycles, carriages, and old jail, and tractors.

Society members met at the Museum to honor military veterans. A display of various uniforms included WW1, WW2, Spanish-American, CMTC, Navy, Korean, and Marine.

The Fall Fair booth in the Industrial tent had various Society items as well as Preservation of De Kalb Heritage's bells. Maurice Bonecutter again drove his antique vehicle in the fair parade as a representative of the Society

The Children's De Kalb County History coloring book, Vol. 1, was finished. Marlene Record, former Middle School art teacher, drew the pictures.

Society meeting at the Hoosier Air Museum presented a program about the Gold Rush time of Ira Brandon and his wife, Millie, represented Ida and Denver Hamman in time period costume.

Forty-Fourth Annual Banquet held at Hopewell Church with a program about the preservation and restoration of old barns and bridges by Amos Swartz of Geneva, Indiana. Two lap quilts were raffled off after the program.

First Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Lynn Kaiser, Treasurer of Society and Museum Supervisor.

2008

Members was given a tour by David Southern the owner of Auburn Sixth Street Emporium antique mall. It was the original Dilgard furniture building.

In May the Society held a Vintage Bridal Display and Mad Hatter Tea and Purse Auction Fundraiser at the Hoosier Air Museum; Nancy Blough and friend from Shipshiwanna, performed on dulcimer and harp.

The Board worked on another revision of the Society By-laws.

Members again helped with the Pioneer Days at McKinney-Harrison school in Auburn.

Tim Kaiser made a nice sign for the front yard of the Museum.

A meeting was held at the Museum with program given by Dave Southern of Auburn, a member of the local Amateur Radio club and his involvement in the hobby.

The September meeting was held at the Newville Church with a talk given by John Scoville about the church and the nearby cemeteries. The church pastor gave a brief church history. A beautiful example of stained glass was the GAR stained window honoring the soldiers who lived in the area. It is a very unique part of the building.

Grant money received from the Community

Foundation for a computer and cataloging software for the Society Museum.

The Society again shared a booth at County fair with Preservation of De Kalb Heritage organization.

Restoration of the floor at the museum -- two faded and damaged layers of tile floor blocks were removed and the museum floor sanded, repaired and restored by Yoder, Inc. of Fort Wayne. Insurance coverage paid for the repairs.

Forty-Fifth Annual Dinner was held at the Ashley Masonic Lodge Hall with a program about Henry Link, former Waterloo historian and collector. Henry inspired John Martin Smith and shared with him his interests of county history. Several Link family members were present – Peg Myers Miller and Barb Skelly Miller.

2009

Meeting at the Butler Church of Christ with a program by Troy Myers speaking about his extensive research about the people who signed their signature quilt. Troy compiled a book about the information . It is displayed at the church.

An informative meeting was held at the Garrett home and woodwork shop of Roger Houser who shared and demonstrated his carvings. He also participates in re-enacting as a trapper.

The Open House attendees at the Museum enjoyed instrumental music provided by the Waterloo Depot

Jam.

Local art and artists was the theme of a meeting at the museum. Several paintings from the collection were on display and information about past and current artists collected. The program was a watercolor demonstration by Mary Thiel of Garrett.

Several generations of the Houlton family wedding dresses were given on permanent loan to the Museum.

Lavon Hart and Harold Curie, guests, spoke about the possible application for an Indiana State Historical Plaque for the Alton Cemetery near St. Joe. The Society sponsored them,

The Vol. 2, of the children's History coloring books was finished and ready to sell.

A roofing company from Auburn was hired to put sealant on the roof of the building.

The Fall Fair booth featured our past artists.

Forty-Fifth Annual Dinner held at the Masonic Lodge in Ashley with a program by Dave Kurtz, editor of Evening Star. He spoke about the history of newspapers in De Kalb County and the importance of their use in doing research.

Evening Star
Daniels cancels union deals

2010

The Society began collecting information, photos, and memories of former students in on

schools. They were collected for a publications focusing on each township.

Publication Committee made preparations for Vol. 3 of the children's coloring book series.

The Board decided that meetings would be held at Willennar Genealogy Center for members and guests who have trouble climbing the stairs at the museum. Money donated toward roof repair.

The Society hosted Sharon Zonker who gave a program about her book "*Twelve Remarkable Women of De Kalb County*".

Some of Society members helped with a cemetery walk at Alton near St. Joe. Alton Cemetery trustees had raised their Indiana State Historic Bureau Cemetery Heritage Marker before Memorial Day. Alton is the first historical cemetery marker in De Kalb County.

Forty-Sixth Annual Dinner held at Masonic Lodge in Ashley with a program by re-enactors, Bob Schmidt and his wife, about the Canal Society of Indiana and they were dressed in garb of Wabash and Erie canal people.

2011

Meeting at WGC with a program by Fritz Zimmerman, Fort Wayne, on his research and publication on local Indian Mounds.

Program at Willennar Center about the Founding Fathers of De Kalb by Sharon Zonker.

Tour of John Bry's newly acquired historic house in Auburn.

Board members voted to no longer have a booth in the Industrial tent during the fair. The space too costly, little made in sales.

A program at the Willennar Center was given Tim and Joleene Kaiser, rein -actors of Civil War era.

John Martin and Bobbi Smith killed in auto accident. John was the County Historian for many years.

A garage sale was held as fundraiser at a home in Auburn.

Kelso Davis photographer equipment collection was donated on permanent loan by his daughters.

Forty-Seventh Annual Dinner held at Masonic Lodge, Ashley with speaker Kevin Beuret on the subject of Mary Todd Lincoln.

2012

Meeting at Eckhart Library with Barbara Morrow speaking on Eli Coffin, underground railroad participant. Presentation by power point. Barbara wrote a children's book, *"A Good Night For Freedom."*

The Open house at the Museum introduced the new County Historian, John Bry.

Society members participated in the Big Run Cemetery walk with leader, Lynn Kaiser from the Willennar Center.

A school house power

point presentation at the Willennar Center.

Work continued on the school house book by the committee. Sharon Zonker made a School House quilt with 12 squares and a border with names of all who contribute a memory or story about attending a country school.

Society Board members held discussions about the stage flats – where to store; who would be interested in them. They take up a lot of space in the Museum that could be used for displays. Permission given to the president to pursue a location to donate them.

Permission was given by Lois Cobler's family to allow the Society to reprint her historical articles from the Garrett newspapers.

Forty-Eighth Annual Dinner held at the Masonic Lodge Hall in Ashley with a program by David Clark and his son who participate in the 35th Irish Civil War Regiment. David does this as one of his ancestors.

2013

The Board members voted to limit the Society meetings to a Spring Banquet, Election meeting, and the Fall Banquet. Attendance at alternate months meetings was very poor.

The Society participated in the Tombstone Trail program, writing histories about individuals in three county cemeteries.

The theme for the Spring Fling meeting held at the Masonic Hall in Ashley was about signature quilts with individuals showing and providing information about their quilts.

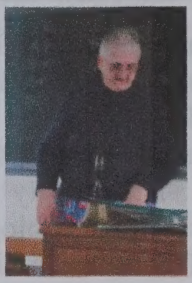
Open house that year also included a rummage sale in front of the building.

The family of Dale Critney, "the telephone man," donated a collection of his telephones.

The Board members discussed ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Historical Society.

A small booklet to be compiled.

Preservation of De Kalb Heritage donated money to the Society.



The September meeting was held at the historic Waterloo Depot with Reba Sliger acting as the teacher. Attendees participated in writing, spelling, arithmetic and singing.

Society members continue working on the school project by collecting area newspaper information via microfilm research.

Forty-Ninth Annual Dinner was held at Ashley Masonic Lodge Hall with program by Dave Yates speaking about the Honor Flights and showed slides about past trips. He participated in helping WW2 veterans fly out of Fort Wayne to Washington DC to visit the War monuments.

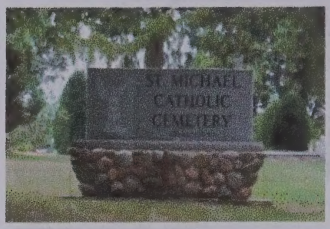
2014

The Spring Fling Banquet was held at Ashley Masonic Lodge Hall. For the program two De Kalb Authors: Scott Sprunger from Butler read his poetry and Chad Gramling read selections from their writings.

The Society Board members hosted a round table meeting of representatives from the Indiana State

Historical Society. It was held at the Butler Public Library.

The Society members participated in a cemetery walk at St. Michael's Catholic Church, north of Waterloo led by Lynn Kaiser. Biographies were about early families of that area who were members of the church.



The Stage flats found a new home, after being stored in Waterloo for several years. St. Frances has a growing drama and theater department and owns the former Scottish Rite Building in downtown Fort Wayne. .

The Society again wrote and contributed biographies for the Tombstone Trail project. The individuals are buried in three area cemeteries- Evergreen (Newville), Sedan, and Calvary Cemetery.

Preservation of De Kalb Heritage donated their remaining inscribed Fenton bells to the Society to sell as a fundraiser.

A meeting was held at Eckhart Public Library with a speaker from ACRES Land Trust of Indiana.

The Society revised and printed a new brochure.

Fifth Annual Dinner held at Masonic Lodge Hall in Ashley with power point presentation by John Bry about the Historic Farmhouses and Barns in De Kalb County

2015

De Kalb County Historical Society developed a facebook.

Two colorful and pristine Jacquaard Woven Coverlets from Wayne County. Ohio, were donated to the Museum's textile collection. They had been in a De Kalb family's possession for many years.

The country schoolbooks project is ongoing. Franklin Township to be the first published. Many hands and many hours of research have been involved in this project.

The Society Spring Fling Banquet was held at the Ashley Masonic Lodge. The program was presented by Chris Weinhold and Marcia Weller, both who are certified Master Gardeners. They spoke about the best way to build butterfly gardens.

The Society celebrated the 10th year of the Museum at the open house held the first weekend in May with new and refreshed displays. It is the 50th year celebration of the De Kalb County Historical Society. A brief history about the Society will be published. It is also the 100th Anniversary of the Carnegie building (now Museum).

Members and guests met in September at the one-room schoolhouse at College Corners on the corner of county roads 24 and 59. Representing a teacher was Reba Sliger, who conducted a session of school questions. County Historian, John Bry, gave remarks concerning the coming Indiana Bicentennial and projects associated with that celebration.

The Fifty-First Annual Dinner was held at Ashley Masonic Lodge. The program was by Curt Witcher, Director of the Genealogy Department, Allen County Public Library, The topic was "Celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial by Incorporating History With Your Family Genealogy".

Cancelled due to snow storm.

2019 - NE ceiling fell - mus. closed

2020-21 Old Board & Organ cancelled.

2021 all accts, keys, etc turned over to Thompson Smith for the NEW Board members - Derek Fuller, Smith, J. Brys. etc.

Old Board no longer exists Derek to take care of Museum.

DE KALB COUNTY HISTORIAN

Each county has one volunteer county historian who promotes local history in their counties and serves as the primary county history contact. Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau established the County Historian Program in 1981 in an effort to improve the historical communication network in the state.

John Martin Smith
1981 – 2011

John Bry
2011 – present

De Kalb County Historical Society Officers

1965

John Martin Smith
Stanley Means
Robert Lehr Wilder
Mary Frances Ankney

2015

First Row: Jenny Blomeke, Lina Zerkle, Lynn Kaiser
Second Row: Joyce Springer, Marilyn Carr, Lucy Funk, Tim Kaiser

Blair Crazy Quilt

Spanish Garden stage flat

Tool display

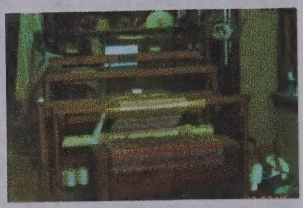
Domestic area

School photos

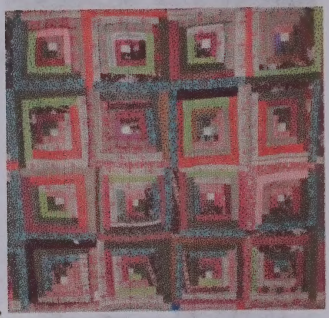
History booklets in gift shop

dekalbhistory@yahoo.com

Dr. Bonnell Souder display



Loom-Domestic display



Log cabin quilt
Museum collection

Fall banquet

DeKalb County, Indiana Historical Society, Inc. 1965

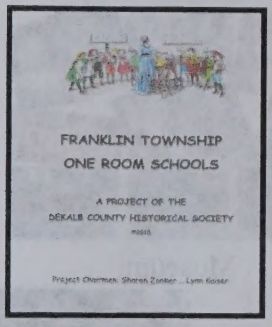
Typewriter

Butler Elementary class visit

Military display

Victrola in Music Display

Domestic display



School book project

Signature quilt from
Big Run area

School display

De Kalb County bands

School photos

Domestic display

Museum
Flowers-Alice Simper
Sign-Tim Kaiser

facebook

Museum

School sweater

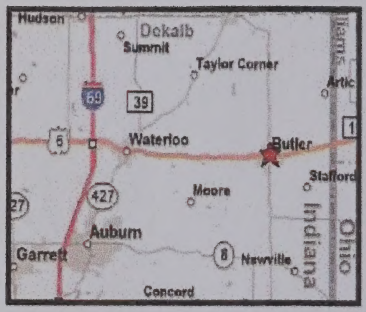
St. Michaels Cemetery walk

De Kalb County Historical Society and Museum

201 East Main Street
Butler, Indiana 46721
(Former Butler Carnegie Public Library)

HOURS
Friday and Saturday
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
May thru September

dekalbhistory@yahoo.com



DeKalb County, IN
1965
Historical Society